

Richard Ross
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Attorney General John Ashcroft, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC, 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After three years of litigation in federal court, a settlement agreement that can end the Department of Justice's lawsuit against Microsoft is more than welcome. After three years, all the issues surrounding the case have been considered and all the involved parties have been able to express their points of view on the matter. After three years, the settlement is more than fair to the Microsoft's competitors and to the federal government. It gives the red-carpet treatment to software developers that wish to create software that works in a Windows operating system.

Considering all the points of the settlement, such as allowing hardware makers to reconfigure parts of Windows, it is obvious that Microsoft will lose some of its market share when the settlement is formalized. The issue at stake now is whether the consumer will benefit from the proposed settlement or not. The enormous cost that the suit has been on Microsoft and on the entire IT industry will inevitably be absorbed by the consumer in the form of artificially higher prices for years to come. If the suit is not settled now, the cost to the IT industry and Microsoft can only increase, which means that the cost to consumers in the end can only increase. This is most certainly not in the public interest.

Now is the time to end the suit and allow the IT industry and Microsoft to return to their functions as innovators and service providers to the millions consumers of technology products. For the good of all involved parties, I urge you to see that the proposed settlement become formal as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

